

Fayette County Board of Developmental Disabilities



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Annual Report 2022

From the Desk of Superintendent Debra Buccilla



Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report. We are proud to introduce you to individuals and families who we have helped over this past year. With over 370 served, we hope their stories provide you insight about the importance of our efforts. County Boards throughout Ohio are one of the first stops on a family's journey looking for assistance. In Fayette County we take this responsibility to heart and make every effort to address all concerns with compassion, insight and thoroughness. We are advocates for children and adults alike and strive to assist eligible individuals to secure the services they need. For children, the importance of early intervention goes without saying. Helping a child manage or overcome roadblocks helps to foster a child with skills to navigate their world. For adults, understanding their past and helping them plan for their future helps to create a more confident and hopefully an independent life as possible.

As with anything in life, the more we put in up front, often results in less needed down the road. The FCBDD is a provider of service for eligible individuals from birth thru the life span and we continually strive to help those we serve develop skills to live happy, fulfilled lives.

To our community partners, thank you also for your efforts to help those we serve to thrive. We couldn't do it without you! Happy reading!

Deb Buccilla, Superintendent

Service and Support Administration



Sadie moved to Fayette County and expressed to her SSA that she wanted to gain work experience through volunteering. Through a person-centered team process, we discussed areas of interest to her and discussed the possibility of her volunteering at a café. Her SSA reached out to the owners of Two Scoops of Sugar, Jill, and Joan, and they agreed to welcome her once a week to help out. Her SSA accompanied her at first, but now she is working independently with Jill and Joan's supervision. Sadie's SSA is also helping her with travel training, so that she can take public transportation on her own to get there. On Sadie's birthday, Jill and Joan made her a cupcake. A big thank you for Two Scoops of Sugar for supporting the people we serve!



SSAs work to connect people with assistive technology and remote support services to help with meeting needs. One device that has been selected by adults and parents, is AngelSense, which is worn on the person and has support options like fall detection, GPS, and two-way talk. This device has provided safety and security, while promoting independence. Fayette County has been a leader in the state for several years and with the Technology First Rule being implemented in 2022, all county boards are required to explore technology to meet people's needs. With the DD system continuing to have staff shortage, technology supports have been critical to ensure people can live in their home and community safely. Josh utilizes AngelSense so he can independently maneuver in his community with confidence.



Cassandra expressed to her team that she was interested in a job. Her SSA referred her to Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, where she worked with Fayette Progressive Industries for job development. In July, she was hired by Lowe's distribution where she does janitorial work. She loves her job! She uses Fayette Transportation to get to and from work. Cassandra was living with her family at that time, and she expressed to her SSA that she felt ready to move out and get her own place. In November, she moved into her new home. She is very happy there. It has been a pleasure to witness her successes.

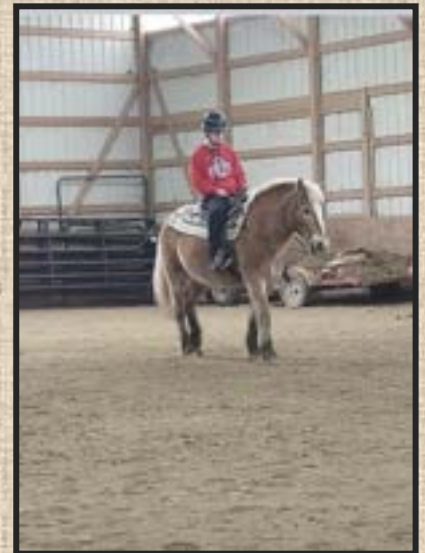


Therapeutic Riding has always been an activity that many people enjoy. This past year, two people began at Dreams 2 Reality Barn and have shown that this experience can enrich their lives in different ways.

Matthew is a youth who has autism. He lives with his mother, Rosemary, and the two of them have limited connections in the community for various reasons. Matthew's SSA wanted to increase his community connections while providing him with sensory friendly activities.

When Dreams 2 Reality was discussed, and it was discovered that insurance would pay for this service for Matthew. The therapeutic horse-riding sessions have become such a motivation for Matthew and an outlet for Rosemary to enjoy her son in a unique way.

He has been enjoying riding Cowboy for many months now, and due to the relationship, he has with the horse, it has improved his interactions with his mom and peers at school. Matthew has graduated to riding independently and looks forward to this time with great anticipation each week.



Connor has always had a dream to have his own zoo. He had been spending his time working at various jobs that never provided him with the fulfillment he was looking for and working directly at a zoo wasn't something possible.

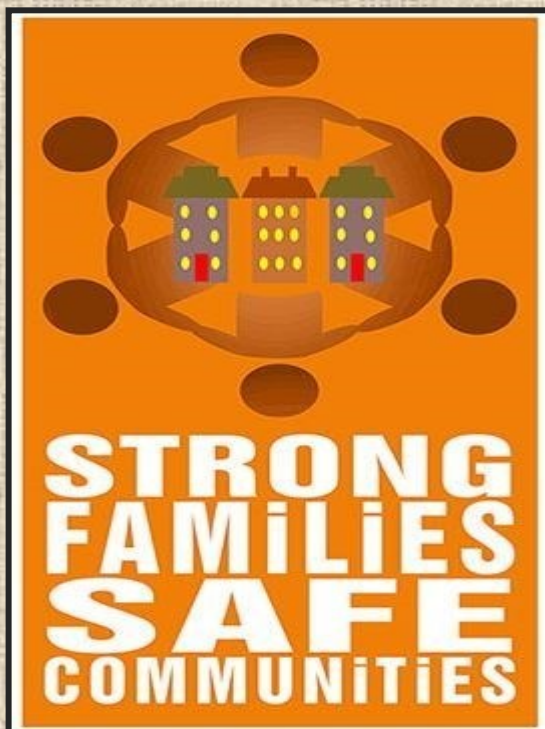
He was linked with Dreams 2 Reality Barn by his SSA, to interact and care for large animals. Connor wanted to care directly for the animals. He has enjoyed volunteering weekly at the barn, serving in various ways with other animals as well as continuing to ride. His team is excited to see the growth in Connor during these volunteer opportunities and are hopeful this will continue to help guide him in his journey to achieve his dreams.

The Service and Support Administration (SSA) Department provided active case management to 125 people in 2022 and several others through intake and community support for information and referral services. We continued our commitment of ensuring that people age 3 through adulthood receive services which enhance the quality of their lives while promoting individual choices. This work was accomplished through services provided including assessment, person-centered planning, referrals, payment authorization, linkage, and monitoring. Sadie, Josh, Cassandra, Matthew, and Connor are success stories of coordinated services through the work of the SSA department.

During this past year, the Safe Families and Safe Communities Grant (Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Mental Health and Addiction Services) was renewed, with SSA Cheryl Binigar as the Fayette County Coordinator. The grant secured money to assist community partners with training in Trauma Responsive care, funding for suicide prevention efforts, Rose Avenue community services, and in-home sustainability funds that are under the Fayette County Family and Children First Council. This grant is for families with children with a developmental disability or mental health that are in crisis and at-risk of family separation.

Through the Employment Navigation/SSA position held by Melanie Cockerill, SSA, we provided multiple public transportation assessments and training information for people to use on their own to get to work, volunteer positions, and to access their community. This is important for an individual to have control in their lives and helps to address the workforce crisis in the DD system.

Good Life Coordinator/Trauma Informed Care Trainer Cheryl Binigar, SSA, provided specialized assessment and support development for several people who receive services and provided training and support to direct support professionals (DSPs) and other team members. This service assists teams to best support people to live in their home and community with the least restrictive supports. This support helps with DSP retention. Cheryl presented on the topic of Support and Service Administrator (SSA) supports at the SSA forum and at the annual convention through the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB).



Community First

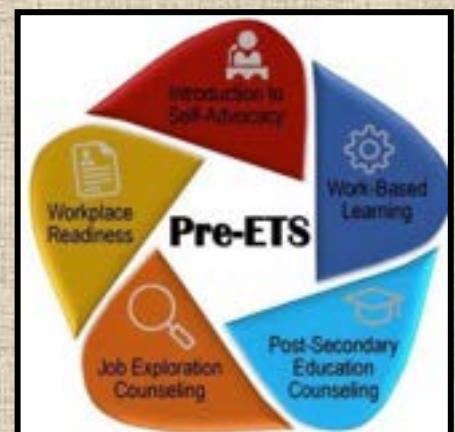
F.A.C.T. Advocacy Group

The Fayette Advocating Change Together (F.A.C.T.) had eleven advocates participate in activities this past year. In March, the group participated in the annual Developmental Disability Advocacy and Awareness Day at the Ohio Statehouse. They also participated in the community Christmas parade.



Pre-Employment Transition Services

During 2022, Fayette County began enrollment in the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). This program is open to students ages 14-22 while enrolled in education. Student must have an IEP or 504 through their local school district and must receive services with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Referrals are made by the local school district or directly through Community First. Most students receive Pre-ETS services during their school day at school.





Special Olympics

The Fayette County Dragons had a busy and successful year. There were 46 athletes who participated in track, softball, flag football, basketball, and bowling. The Dragons football team was crowned Division 1 State Champions for the fourth straight year. The basketball team finished in 3rd place in Division 5 at the state tournament. The bowling team held the 1st annual friendship tournament with Highland and Madison Counties. Teams consisted of bowlers from each county on the same team versus other teams of the same make-up. Track athletes held the second annual unified track meet with Miami Trace and Washington City Schools. The Dragons competed with the school's athletes against other teams of the same.



Fayette Progressive Preschool



Grayson started at the preschool in August of 2022 as a very shy boy who did not fully play or interact with his friends. Grayson came in recognizing his name, letters, colors, and shapes. During circle time, he was quick to follow and mirror behaviors of his peers. During play, he would not speak up for himself. As the year progressed, Grayson has evolved from a follower to a leader among his peers. He is setting a positive example for his friends by modeling appropriate behaviors and participating in group activities. Grayson can now not only spell and recognize his name but also recognizes the names of his peers. He is being a strong advocate for himself. We are so proud of Grayson and very excited to see how he continues to progress socially and academically.

Grayson is one of 75 students enrolled in Fayette Progressive Preschool for the 2022-2023 school year. Fayette Progressive Preschool is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed special needs/inclusion preschool program that seeks to nurture the growth of all students in embracing and serving exceptionalities, developing a spectrum of skills, and encouraging the development of a lifelong love of learning. We currently serve 38 students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for development in academics, social interaction physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Shared experiences between these students and our 37 typically developing pals allow for simultaneous learning and friendship building for all members of our school community.

Transportation was provided to requesting students and family. During the 2022-2023 school year, 30 students utilized school transportation.



Early Intervention



Early Intervention provided service coordination for 124 families in 2022. Of that, 82 families received direct services from the EI team. The services provided were through virtual and home visiting methods. Early Intervention had several young ones successfully “graduate” from the EI program in 2022. Early Intervention works with children and their families to enhance the child’s development through everyday learning opportunities and routines. EI serves and supports infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years of age. The EI team consists of Service Coordinators, Nursing, Developmental Specialists, Occupational, Speech and Physical Therapist.

Collaboration and growth have been a huge piece of FCBDD’s 2022 initiative with the development of our ADEP (Autism Diagnosis Education Project) Program. Sylvia Call serves in the role of Autism Services Coordinator, and she partners with Dr. Lenora Fitton of ABC Pediatrics to provide access to local autism diagnosis services for our Early Intervention families. This program began in July of 2022, and since that time Sylvia and Dr. Fitton have completed evaluations for a total of 13 children in Fayette County. Of those 13 completed evaluations, 9 children received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder from Dr. Fitton. The program has been well-received by families in Fayette County as an alternative to waiting more than a year at the larger test sites for the same diagnostic services. Rose Stone, parent of one of our Fayette County EI children who has gone through the ADEP Program has this to say about her experience: “This past year has been a roller coaster of emotion for us as we came to terms with Carter’s autism diagnosis. Sylvia has been a rock for our family! She has answered every question and has offered so much insight and support. She shared her own son’s journey through autism with us and provided so much comfort whenever I had doubts. Dr. Fitton is an amazing, dedicated, and outspoken doctor who truly cares about her patients, and I’m so glad that my child went through this process with Sylvia and Dr. Fitton. I cannot thank this amazing team enough for all they’ve done for my family.”



2022 Statement of Activities

Revenues

\$3,940,084

Local and Federal/State

- *1.75 mill Tax Levy
- *1.5 mill Tax Levy
- *.75 mill Tax Levy
- *Grants
- *ODE Funding
- *Medicaid Administrative Claiming
- *Title XX
- *Waiver Reconciliation
- *Targeted Case Management

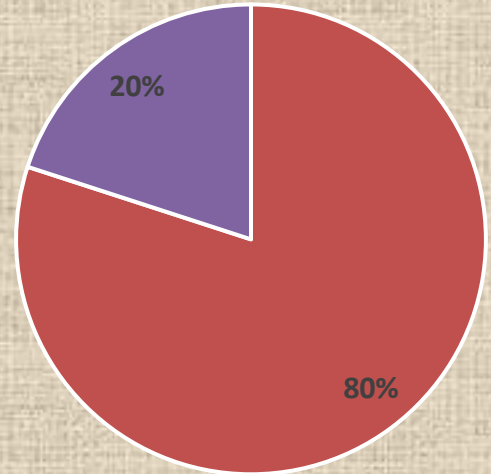
Expenditures

Supports and Services

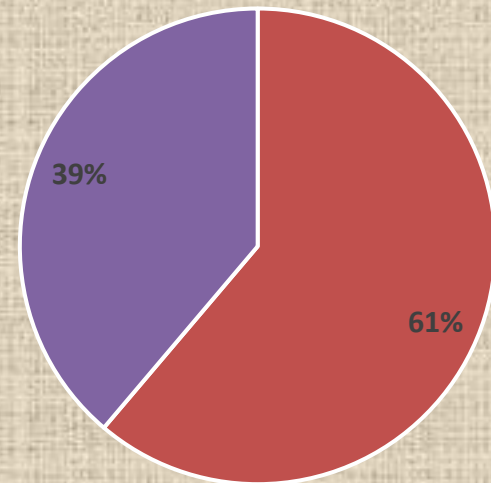
- *Residential
- *Employment
- *Early Intervention
- *Preschool
- *Service and Support Administration
- *Medicaid Coordination
- *Employment Coordination
- *Home Purchases
- *Adult Day
- *Transportation
- *Family Support
- *Nursing Support
- *Provider Support
- *Quality Assurance
- *Community Outreach
- *Home Repairs

Administrative Support

- *Facility Maintenance
- *Supplies
- *Overhead
- *Personnel
- *Utilities
- *Equipment
- *General Expenses



■ Levies ■ Federal/State



■ Supports and Services
■ Administrative Support

***Operations staff made several improvements to the Starting Gate Building and the Caryl Center in 2022.**

- **At the Starting Gate building:**
 - The former Rock A Bye daycare space was transformed into 3 new areas for FCBDD staff to utilize. Conference rooms, Operation staff offices, therapy rooms and a share management office space was created. The new area has been valuable and a well-used new space.
 - Landscaping improvements were made with new mulch, flowers, and better drainage systems.
 - Several HVAC units were installed with continued work on those in the next few years.
 - New paint and flooring was installed in several areas of the building.
- **At the Caryl Center:**
 - Measures were taken to improve air quality in offices.
 - New windows and bathroom fixtures were installed. Some areas were painted.
 - A new 2022 work van was acquired and two older buses that were not in use were sold.
 - Landscaping improvements were made with new mulch and flowers and rough areas were graded out in the field area.



***The Fayette County Board Nurse continues to provide support in the area of medication administration. She provided medications to individuals at the preschool, as well as Fayette Progressive Industries. In addition to having a caseload with Early Intervention, the nurse continued to provide some training to preschool staff in the areas on g-tube, insulin administration and first aid/CPR.**

2022 Board Members

David Sanders, President

Nicholas Miller, Vice President

Ben Snodgrass, Secretary

Mitchell Kirby

Mark Heiny

Betty Hoppes

Constance Buffy Enochs

2022 Administrative Staff

Debra Buccilla, Superintendent

Sherry Burns, Executive Administrative Assistant

Bret Malone, Education Director/Operations Director

Lori Moore, Business Director

Elizabeth Brennfleck, Human Resource Director

Renee Guess, Service and Support Director

Suzie Janasov, Early Childhood Director

Jan Cobb, Nurse

**Chad Blakely, Community First Specialist/Special Olympics
Coordinator**

Brady Scott, IT Manager

Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent